

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-13 are free of the prior art and otherwise in condition for allowance.

Favorable action with the early allowance of claims 3-13 is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions, or wishes to discuss this matter, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dec. 10, 2001

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